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AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

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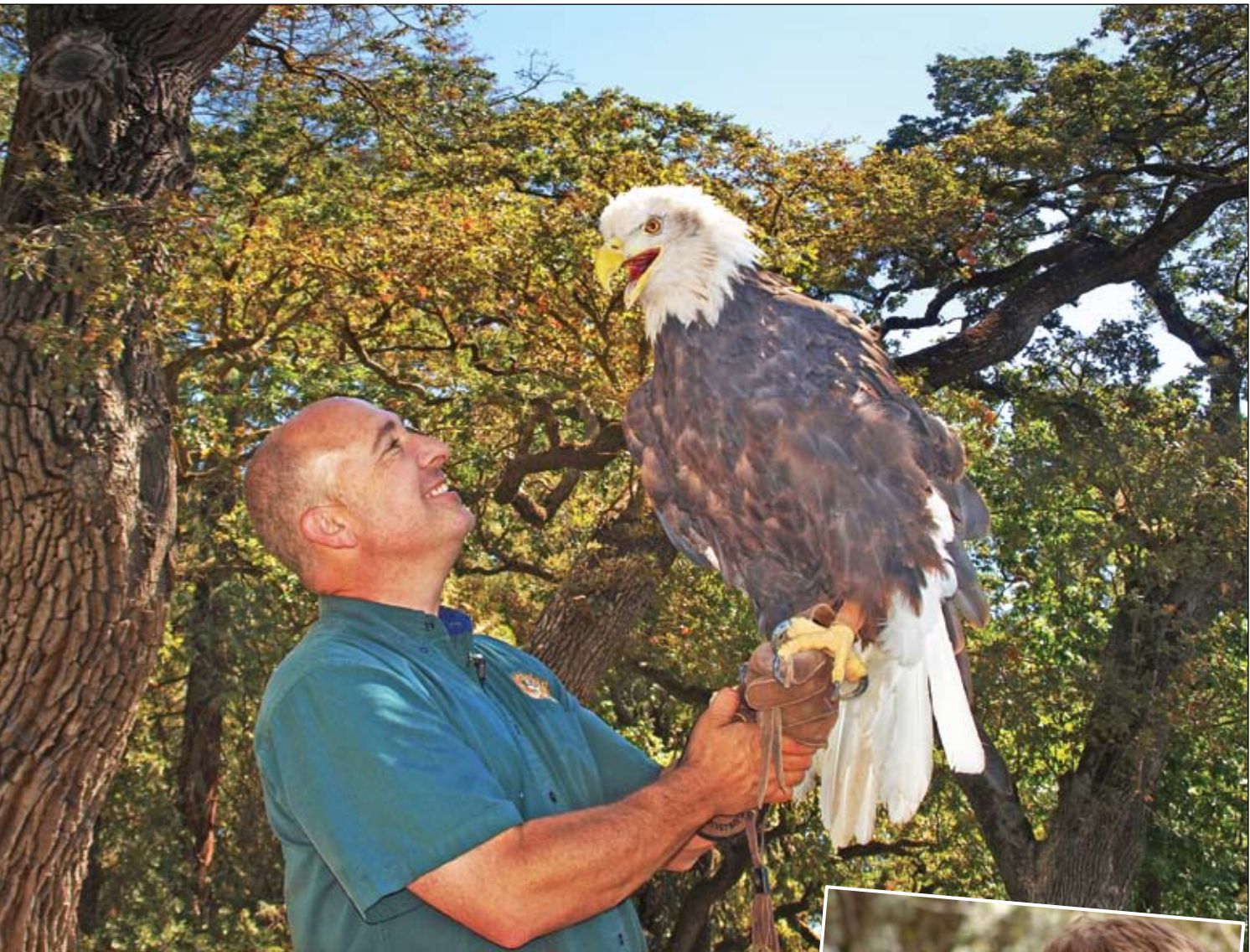
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An Educational Feast



A rescued bald eagle called Spirit was a majestic presence among bird, mammal and reptilian ambassadors at the recent Effie Yeaw Nature Fest. Balding handler is Gabe Kerschner from the Wild Things Inc. Sanctuary in Placer County.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

Q: What is the world's fastest animal?

A: The peregrine falcon. At 200 mph, this raptor could easily out speed a cheetah.

By live demonstration, other animal facts came out of the woods at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's recent Nature Fest event in Carmichael. For example: a nocturnal owl's flight is virtually soundless. A young kangaroo is called a Joey. And, thanks to a visiting animal exhibitor, audiences could even say g'day to a real Joey. Rejected by his mom and adopted by a Placerville animal sanctuary, the amiable youngster hopped onto a table and nibbled handler Gabe

Kerschner's fingers. "Want to see his pouch?" Kerschner teased hundreds of excited children. "Just kidding. He's a boy; boy kangaroos don't have pouches."

Thus facts of life are shared. "There's no better way to learn about nature than through direct experience," approved Nature Center Development Director Betty Cooper. "By seeing live animals and learning about their skills and vulnerabilities, young people gain more than knowledge. They also develop empathy and seem eager to protect wildlife. We believe preservation begins with education."

Over 1300 children and parents supported the all-day event. Critters imported for their delight included bats, owls, hawks, snakes, a bald eagle, a possum

and a raccoon called Radar. Kangaroo notwithstanding, the wildlife exhibits represented local species (yes, bald eagles have recently been spotted on the American River Parkway). Deer, woodpeckers and wild turkey residents of the surrounding preserve augmented viewing opportunities. Through interactive displays and crafts, visitors also learned about salmon migration on the adjacent river.



Naturalist Kelli Moulden co-presented the Hawks Honkers & Hoots learning program. She showed live raptors, including a peregrine falcon called Bolt.

Basket making skills of Carmichael's original Nisenan villagers were demonstrated by their modern day descendants. ★

Learn about the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Taxpayer Group Applauds Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Advocates for the protection of Proposition 13 – the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – today touted Senator Jim Nielsen's voting record to preserve taxpayers' rights. In its review of lawmakers' votes on bills pertaining to taxes during the 2013 legislative year, Senator Nielsen received a perfect score of 100 percent.

"Californians are heavily taxed in our everyday lives from cell phone taxes to car taxes. These taxes are in addition to income and sales tax increases, the fire tax and the ever increasing fees imposed by state agencies on all of us," said Senator Nielsen (R-Gerber). "Yet, Sacramento politicians are constantly looking at different ways to tax us to pay for their pet projects."

Nielsen added, "The practice of politicians raiding taxpayers' pocketbooks to fund an increasingly burdensome and dysfunctional government must stop."

After tracking over 20 pieces of legislation that would have significant negative impacts on taxpayers, HJTA thanked Nielsen for his support of taxpayers and his tireless efforts to fight on their behalf.

HJTA's President Jon Coupal said, "For 35 years Jim has been a staunch supporter of Proposition 13 on behalf of taxpayers. This year's perfect score demonstrates a continued level of consistency that is commendable. His is a record that taxpayers can trust, and a model that other legislators should look to."

Founded in 1978, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is the leading taxpayer group dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13. ★

Source: Senator Jim Nielsen

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MPG

Drowsy Driving Puts Drivers In Danger

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In an effort to reduce the number of fatigue-related collisions and reinforce our mission of saving lives, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) joins the California State Transportation Agency and Office of Traffic Safety in a campaign to remind motorists to stay alert during "Drowsy Driving Prevention Week," November 3-10, 2013.

"Many people do not understand the dangers associated with driving drowsy," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "This is our opportunity to educate the public on the potential life-threatening consequences of driving while fatigued behind the wheel."

Drowsiness can impair judgment, reaction time, and a driver's attention. This annual campaign provides public education about the risks of driving while drowsy and countermeasures to improve safety on the road.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), drowsy driving causes more than 100,000 crashes a year, resulting in 40,000 injuries and contributing to 1,550 deaths.

The American Automobile Association estimates that one out of every six deadly traffic accidents, and one out of eight crashes requiring hospitalization of drivers or passengers is due to drowsy driving. Preliminary data for 2011 from CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System indicates more than 1,600 people lost their lives in collisions where fatigue was a factor on California's roadways.

"Driving while drowsy or sleep-deprived can be a lethal combination," said Russia Chavis, Acting Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "While most people are aware of the dangers of drunk or distracted driving, many don't realize that sleepiness also slows reaction times,

decreases awareness, impairs judgment and increases your risk of crashing, all similar to the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol."

The following warning signs to indicate that it is time to stop driving and find a safe place to pull over and rest:

- Difficulty focusing, frequent blinking, or heavy eyelids
- Difficulty keeping daydreams at bay
- Trouble keeping your head up
- Drifting from your lane, swerving, tailgating, and/or hitting rumble strips
- Inability to clearly remember the last few miles driven
- Missing exits or traffic signs
- Hitting highway rumble strips, the ridged edges to the road meant to jar drivers
- Yawning repeatedly
- Feeling restless, irritable, or aggressive

Drivers who experience any of these drowsy-driving symptoms should stop

driving. Drivers who are far from home should use a reset stop, parking lot, or hotel to take a quick nap. Twenty minutes of napping helps clears fatigue. Caffeine can also improve wakefulness.

"Know the signs of fatigue and take the time to rest when you find yourself feeling drowsy," added Commissioner Farrow. "We want everyone to arrive at their destination safely and remain alert while behind the wheel."

CHP recommends planning ahead to reduce the risk of drowsy driving. This starts with ensuring drivers have adequate sleep to maintain proper alertness during the day. Drivers should also schedule route breaks during long trips—every 100 miles or two hours. ★

For more information on drowsy driving, visit www.drowsydriving.org.

John McGinness To Be Featured at Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -John McGinnis, KFBK Radio Personality and former Sacramento County Sheriff, will be the co-commentator at the Sacramento Republican Women Federated Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon and Fashion Show on Saturday, December 7th at North Ridge Country Club.

“This will be an exciting and festive occasion,” reports Kay Burton, the event chairperson, “especially with John onboard. He’s such an in-demand addition to the day’s line-up.”

North Ridge Country Club at 7600 Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks is the setting, and will be



John McGinnis

decorated for Christmas. This year’s menu features a choice of petite filet mignon with a demi glaze, orange roughly, or a vegetarian selection. Tiramisu dessert

will round-out the menu. The Fashion Show will feature holiday couture from Cho Cho’s and there will be male as well as female models. The Matta Kids Singers will perform. A silent auction of Ronald Reagan Memorabilia will be held and there will be a raffle prizes. Guests are welcome. The cost is \$30 for per person. The deadline for making reservations is November 27, 2013. ★ *For more information, please call Kay Burton at (916) 635-5590. Or send a check, made out to SRWF, to Margie DeRow, 11612 Gold Country Blvd., Gold River, CA 95670.*

Veterans Day Event Planned

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Between 50 and 100 members of the Society of Wild Weasels from all over the United States will attend the 8th annual Veterans Day Celebration on Monday, November 11th, in the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Sacramento VA Medical Center, 10535 Hospital Way at Mather. Pre-program entertainment will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the commemoration program will start at 10 a.m. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Vietnam 50 Years Later.” During the Vietnam War, Wild Weasels were a new breed of aviators and aircraft whose purpose was to seek out, engage, and destroy the North Vietnamese SAM (SA-2) and radar sites. The program began at the former Mather Air Force Base. In addition to honoring the Wild Weasel airmen, the Veterans Day program will commemorate the recently refurbished F-105G (Wild Weasel aircraft) that has stood in front of the Veterans Hospital for many years. Sponsored by the City of

Rancho Cordova, the Department of Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System, and Alphagraphics, the ceremony will also pay tribute to all U.S. military Veterans. The program’s keynote speaker will be Lawrence “Larry” LeMieux from Clayton, Ohio, who is historian for the Society of Wild Weasels and liaison for the Society and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. LeMieux completed Electronic Warfare Officer School at Mather AFB and went on to operational flying squadrons. He completed a tour in Southeast Asia as a Wild Weasel Electronic Warfare Officer. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf clusters. Rancho Cordova City Council Member Robert J. McGarvey, who spearheaded the first Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances in the City, and David R. Stockwell, VA Northern California Health Care System Director, will give welcoming remarks. The emcee will be retired Lieutenant Colonel

Bob Burns, Sr. who is a WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veteran. Guest speakers will include Congressman Ami Bera, California State Senator Jim Nielson, Assemblyman Ken Cooley, Rancho Cordova Mayor Linda Budge, and Major General Retired Peter J. Gravett, who is the CalVet Secretary. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Travis Brass from the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West. The national anthem will be sung by Daniel Yoder from the Sacramento Choral Society. Lyle Seeband will play “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes. Presentation and retiring of the colors will be conducted by the Cordova High School USAF Jr. ROTC. Event volunteers include the Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge “Catch the Spirit”, Rancho Cordova Boy Scout Troop #363, and VFW Post 10125. For more information, please call the City at (916) 851-8700. ★ *Source: City of Rancho Cordova*

Just Breathe...



By Jodie Barringer Myers

Halloween has come and gone, which means that Thanksgiving and Christmas and Hanukkah, et al., are on their way, which means we have to do our regular everyday stuff, on top of all the happy holiday, fun family stuff, which means we are in pursuit of having everything just-so, at the perfectly appointed time, in the most festive and beautiful of surroundings. Oh, that’s not how you roll this time of year? Lucky you. Because I do...much to my family’s chagrin. The holidays are the time of year to relax, reflect and reconnect with our loved ones. I get that. I cherish the “fallidays.” I love the holidays — more than Joe Biden loves his new dentures. But face it: it takes a lot of work and angst to make everything look/seem/be simple and quaint and pretty and special. Each year, through all the hustle and bustle of November and December, there’s an omnipresent little voice telling me to... just breathe.

Let’s start with Thanksgiving: I mean, should we do the tried-and-true traditional stuffing Grandma used to make, or do we try a nouveau, sustainable(ish) recipe fresh off the pages of Bon Appetite? And when we go around the table telling all for which we are thankful, will I do the obligatory “health, family, friends and Mia dog”...or shall I try something somewhat irreverent and different this year: “I’m thankful for Tobias, my new wonderful hair guy!” Or...”I’m so grateful for the fabby boots I found on sale at Nordy’s last week!” (No?) And what do I need to say — or not say — to my niece’s surely-to-feel-on-display-and-under-intense-scrutiny, first-time-to-meet-the-family boyfriend? Should I trade an extra piece of pumpkin pie for an extra glass of wine, or two? Or say to-heck-with-it, and have extra servings of every single culinary offering?

Breathe. Just breathe. Then comes Christmas. I love decking my halls. I can’t wait to see, hear and donate to the Salvation Army bell-ringers; to smell all that fresh pine; to feel the warmth of a fire in the fireplace on a chilly winter’s night. The highlight of highlights, for me, is singing Silent Night and lighting the candles in church at the Christmas Eve service, with my family at my side. But it all comes at the price of self-inflicted stress, expectations and undue pressure. Like...can I get away with fake garland this year? I mean, it looks, really, really, really real; and then I won’t have to

worry about those dreaded dry pine needles. Will we be invited to a Christmas party, or two? (Pleeeeee don’t leave us out, ‘cause that’s a whole other kind of ugly stress!) And if we do get an invite or two, will I see the same people at each party, which means I can’t get away with just one new festive frock? Heaven forbid! And which family photo should I choose for our Christmas card this year — oh, that’s right. There are zero family pics taken this year, because we were only together in one place for about seven minutes, which means there will be no Christmas card this year. (Because I truly believe it’s rude and a waste of a stamp to send a Christmas card without a photo accompanying it.) And wait...did I really just spend \$43.75 more on one kid than the other?!

Breathe. Just breathe. And before you know it, Poof, it’s all over. We give our loved ones hugs and kisses good bye, go back to our respective lives and routines, restart our diets, brace ourselves for the overabundance of Visa charges, try to ward off the Seasonal Affective Disorder from the long, dreary, no-blue-sky days that lie ahead, and gather our W2s from the past year. Because, before you know it, the Tax Man Cometh. **Breathe. Just breathe.** ★ *Jodie Barringer Myers is a 25-year resident of Gold River. She writes a blog, Cottagecheeseandcrepepaper.com. Her email address is jbtthin-mint@hotmail.com.*



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Diversity Celebrated by Rancho Cordova Orchestra

By Shelly Blanchard

From the opening notes of “Procession of the Sadar” to the final strains of the beloved “West Side Story,” the Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra delivered on its promise to create a musical celebration of the community’s cultural diversity in late October.

Conductor Pete Nowlen provided the professorial back stories to a half-dozen musical expressions of the theme, then opened the stage to a soaring Italian aria by soprano Robin Fisher and the haunting melody of the Native American flute to kick off the orchestra’s second season.

Founded last year with the support of the Cordova Community Council, the orchestra features approximately 65 musicians who rehearse in the Mills Station Building, bringing new life to a long-empty community icon.

The recent performance rounded out a day of arts in Rancho Cordova, which included members of the Moderately Bright Dixieland Band and visual arts on display at Brushes and Brews, an event held at the American River Brewery in Rancho Cordova.

The orchestra filled the First Covenant Church Worship Center with a wide array of music exploring the many



cultures that make up Rancho Cordova and the region.

The Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra’s mission to entertain and educate community audiences by providing high quality musical performances consisting of well-known but infrequently performed works, and new musical works developed by regional musicians is now entering its second season.

The production was supported by the First Covenant Church, City of Rancho Cordova, Cordova Recreation and Park District,

Golden State Water Company and Folsom Cordova Unified School District, and coordinated by the Cordova Community Council. Additional support for the concert was provided by De Bie and Crozier, LLP, Law Offices of Robert Harris, Happi Music Land and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

The orchestra will next perform on Jan. 18, 2014 at the California Railroad Museum. All aboard for a concert celebrating America’s great rail system and the spirit of adventure. ★

Read & Feed Program Digs in as Librarians Go Agrarian

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

Good books have plots. So have some libraries — garden plots, that is.

At two Sacramento County libraries, hands-on learning gets hands dirty for a good cause. Children learn what makes crops grow; how different plants favor different seasons; how bugs benefit growth; how fresh vegetables enrich diets.

The Sacramento Library Foundation has partnered with ladies of the Junior League in a “Read & Feed” program, geared to educate from the ground up. Spurred by hard times and the fashionable passion for healthy food, the garden movement is on the rise across America. In war-time parlance, school, church and library plots are 21st century “Victory Gardens.” And, just as 1940s allotments saved many from starvation, garden gurus hope community plots will improve nutrition and weed out bad habits.

“When we considered Sacramento needs, we saw education and nutrition as priorities,” explains Sacramento Junior League President Amanda Merz. “Many in the community lack access to fresh produce. Teaching families to grow food may change the way they eat and change lives. We hope the program will influence a new generation to get better food on their tables.”

In this effort, Junior Leaguers and the Library Foundation (with a \$10,000 injection from Wells Fargo Bank) have so far provided \$53,000 to create demonstration gardens at County libraries. The League’s three year Read & Feed commitment embraces Colonial Heights and Rancho Cordova plots. A further garden is proposed for Arcade Library.

Rancho’s allotment got started this fall. Master Gardener Bill Maynard -- who coordinates the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition -- supervised



The Rancho Cordova Library garden dedication drew VIP and volunteer supporters. Assembly Member Ken Cooley held flowers beside Rancho Cordova Mayor Linda Budge. County Supervisor Don Nottoli stood, back row.

AmeriCorps volunteers in stacking 500 concrete pavers as bed walls. “We mix mushroom compost and horse manure into the soil,” he explained. “We stay as organic as possible. We’ll plant kale, chard, beets, and turnips before Thanksgiving. Lettuce will be ready to pick in 60 to 80 days. The local garden club meets here so they’ll be garden stewards. The kids will help. The library’s a friendly place to learn that you don’t need much space or money to make a garden.”

With Maynard advising, volunteers ploughed the first furrow at Colonial Heights in 2012.

Youth Services Librarian Amanda Foulk now hosts a monthly children’s group whose 20 members learn much from their garden classroom. “They get dirty and they love it,” she says. “Many live in apartments; they’ve never had their hands in soil. You should see their little faces when they crack open pods and pop peas in their mouths. The taste is unlike any pea they’ve encountered.

“We talk about sunshine and how to consider light when planting,” she says. “We’ve put in flowers so insects will come and pollinate our plants. The Health Education Council provides a free cooking class each month. For one lesson, the kids each picked a bell pepper and took it inside to use in a meal. One time

they made huevos rancheros. The library smelled amazing all day.”

As summer 2013 ended, tomatoes grew eight feet high in Colonial’s garden. Foulk shared the fruit with library customers. The Junior League hosted a harvest festival, enjoyed by 150 visitors. Colonial Heights and Rancho Cordova have ordered more gardening books and established seed “libraries” to share donated seeds for patrons’ home gardens.

On such fertile ground, great ideas quickly take root and spread. A Colonial Heights librarian recently shared burgeoning botanical knowledge with her son’s school teachers. The boy’s school now boasts its own winter garden.

“For librarians, we’ve all learned more than we expected about gardening,” says Colonial Heights volunteer coordinator David Henson. “But libraries aren’t just about books. Our focus now is to bring people together and improve community life.”

Supporters of Read & Feed include: Junior League of Sacramento; Sacramento Library Foundation; Soil Born farms; Health Education Council; California Food Literacy Center; the Naygrow Family Foundation; Councilman Jay Schenirer. For information, visit www.saclibrary.org or call (916) 264 2920. ★

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The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce promotes the business and community environment in Fair Oaks. It works with all other Fair Oaks organizations on community events, festivals, fundraisers and solutions to concerns. Together with the community and citizens it helps to make Fair Oaks a special place to live and do business.
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Fair Oaks Pre-School Prepares for 50th Anniversary



SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Little Methodist School (LMS), a pre-school program of Fair Oaks United Methodist Church, has begun a memory book project as a centerpiece for its 50th Anniversary year celebrations, which start in 2014.

To commemorate the milestone, the school is compiling a book titled "Fifty Years of Memories." It is asking anyone who has remembrances from any time since the school opened its doors in 1964 to contact to Elizabeth Avery-Hammond at littlemschool@sbcglobal.net.

The school is located adjacent to the Church at 9849 Fair Oaks Blvd in Fair Oaks.

LMS is a parent-participation preschool and toddler program designed to uphold Christian values and provide a nurturing atmosphere for a child's spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

More information about the school is available at www.littlemethodistschool.org or by calling (916) 961-0368. ★

Source: Little Methodist



By Pastor Ray Dare

Faith is like a muscle. That means it develops by being used. The more you use a muscle the stronger it gets. The more you use the little faith that you've got, the more it gets stretched. The more it gets stretched, the more God is able to bless your life. We call the circumstances that God creates to stretch our faith "trials". The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:7, "*These trials are only to test your faith to show that it is strong and pure.*"

One test that we go through is what I call the pressure test. How do I handle stress? Do I depend on myself or do I depend on God? Do I turn to other things or do I turn to God? Psalm 50:15 "*I want you to trust Me in your times of trouble so I can rescue you and you can give Me glory.*" God says, I want you to turn to Me when you're in trouble, not to other things.

Do we do that? No. We usually have God about number nine or ten on the list. We turn to everything else first to relieve stress before we turn to God. Some of you say, "When I get under

The Pressure Test

stress I know what I need. I need a drink or one of those little pills. I go to my medicine cabinet and get that little pill and then I won't be stressed." No. That doesn't last. God says, I want you to turn to Me. When you're under stress, this is a test.

You have legitimate needs in your life that needs to be met. The problem is you get in a hurry. If God doesn't instantly meet that need, you make up your own plan. You try to meet your own needs yourself. We do this all the time. We short-circuit God's will, God's blessing in our lives, by going for the quick fix, the cheap thrill, the quick relief that's temporary – a little temporally fix. We do it all the time. We don't wait for God's will in our lives.

Jeremiah 2:13 "*My people have done two evils. They have turned away from me the spring of living water and they've dug their own wells which are broken wells and cannot hold water.*" Imagine yourself, walking through a desert for two days with no water and no shade. Your throat is parched. You think you're going to die if you don't get some water. As you come up over a sand dune after a couple of days and you see this road side stand with a big neon sign and arrows pointing down that says, "God's free unlimited, everlasting, fulfilling, living water." But do you walk up and ask for a drink? No! You walk right on past it and say to a guy standing

there, "Can I borrow a shovel?" and you start digging your own well. You're going to get your own water your way.

Right now you may be struggling with financial pressure in your life and the temptation is to cut corners, to be unscrupulous, stop tithing, cheat on your taxes, do an unethical business deal. Anything to get out of debt. You're building a well that isn't going to hold water. Some of you are under enormous emotional pressure. You don't turn to God. You reach for that bottle! Or you go to the medicine cabinet for those prescription medicines. You're digging a well that's not going to hold any water. It's a quick fix. It doesn't solve the problem.

What's the antidote? "*If you're walking in darkness without a ray of light, trust in the Lord, and rely on your God.*" Isaiah 50:10 This is a test! When you're under stress, God is going to discover if you are going to turn to Him or are you going to turn to other things? It's a test. Will you trust Him? Wait for His timing, wait for His provision. He loves you more than you'll ever know and He wants you to turn to Him, not other things that do hold water. ★

Pastor Ray
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"Theatre of Lights" Kicks-Off in Old Sacramento on November 27

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Known as a magical, electrifying and family-friendly holiday tradition in Old Sacramento, the ever-popular and free Theatre of Lights performances return on Wednesday evening, November 27, and continue Thursdays through Sundays throughout the holiday season (except for Thanksgiving Day) with special performances on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Theatre of Lights artfully mixes the historic charm of Old Sacramento with state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology to create a memorable and visually-exciting holiday experience for visitors of all ages. With new storytelling elements incorporated this year and choreography that takes place on the balconies and rooftops of Old Sacramento's historic buildings located on K Street between Front and 2nd Streets, the narrated reading of Clement Clarke Moore's The Night Before Christmas is brought to life.

Conceived and created by Stage Nine Entertainment's Troy Carlson, Theatre of Lights is produced by some of California's finest talents in the field of light and sound: Sacramento Theatrical Lighting (STL), Associated Sound and Skywalker Sound, and professional voice actor Bill Farmer, the voice of Disney's Goofy.

"With the amazing caliber of talent, lighting and sound expertise amid the backdrop of Old Sacramento's historic and very unique setting, our Theatre of Lights performances are sure to rival the top light shows available anywhere in the country," said Chris McSwain, Executive Director of the Old Sacramento Business Association.

The first Theatre of Lights performance of the season will coincide with the much-anticipated lighting of the City of Sacramento's official Christmas tree on Wednesday evening, November 27 (the night before Thanksgiving) with ceremonies

that begin at 6 p.m.

Two 20-minute Theatre of Lights performances are offered each scheduled evening at 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. with special holiday shows on Christmas Eve at 6:15 p.m. and New Year's Eve at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (rain or shine). And, as a special -- and often surprising -- treat on many nights, local celebrities and influential community members will entertain the audience in the guest role of "papa," wearing a stocking cap and oftentimes decked out in holiday pajamas.

Theatre of Lights is presented by the Old Sacramento Business Association (OSBA) in cooperation with Downtown Sacramento Foundation (DSF), the City of Sacramento and Old Sacramento merchants and small business owners.

More information is available by calling (916) 442-8575 or visiting www.oldsacramento.com. ★

Source: T-Rock Communications



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Commentary By Gold River Resident, David Koenig

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) -Seems to be a lot going on in the world of politics and these are just a few things that caught my attention:

- Democratic Congressman from Florida Alan Grayson sent out fundraising literature with a picture of a burning cross on the front representing the letter “T” of Tea Party to compare them to the Ku Klux Klan. This guys is a known nut-job so my only takeaway is to remind myself that the people of this District keep electing him so I

Political Musings

won’t be planning any trips to the Orlando/central Florida area any time soon...scary...

- Republican Senator John McCain is said to be looking into another run in 2016. Here’s hoping it will be a Forrest Gump-type of run where he just goes running aimlessly and not for any higher political office.
- Democratic California Governor Jerry Brown has signed legislation into law to allow the state’s transgender public school students to choose which bathrooms they use and whether they participate in boy’s or girl’s sports. C’mon Jerry, I know they used to call you “Moonbeam” and people already think California is the breakfast cereal of the US (Fruits, Flakes and Nuts) but you can’t be serious...
- Three years after getting signed into law, Obamacare has rolled out to massive confusion, technical glitches, sites that don’t respond, and phones that don’t get answered. And while we were told that we could keep our doctors and our premiums would go down, mine have gone up 70% and my doctor just dropped me. Yes, this is off to a screaming start for the 46 people who have enrolled.
- The government just ended an 18-day shutdown and the 800,000 non-essential government employees are now back on the job getting paid again. Also, they will be paid for the days they were off, which just BEGS the question why we have that many non-essential employees in our government and what exactly did this travesty accomplish??

It’s getting to the point where I can’t even watch TV political shows any more or listen to people in both parties babbling nonsense or screaming at each other. No Rodney King, we can’t just get along... ★

Bera Gets Back to His Doctor Roots Volunteering at Local Free Health Clinic

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Congressman Ami Bera, M.D., got back to his roots practicing medicine in mid-October, volunteering with his wife Dr. Janine Bera at the Imani Clinic. Run by University of California Davis medical students, the clinic provides free healthcare to the local community.

Staff at the Imani Clinic includes undergraduates who do intake, lab work and patient charts, and medical students who see patients under the supervision of one or two preceptor physicians. The Beras have been volunteering as preceptors at the Imani Clinic for the past 18 years.



Before being elected to Congress, Rep. Bera was an instructor and the associate dean of admissions at U.C. Davis Medical School. Photo courtesy Ami Bera

“Helping out at the Imani Clinic is a great way to serve our community that Janine and I have always enjoyed,” said Rep. Bera. “It helps people in need and also exposes medical students to the complexities of providing care to a diverse and underserved community.”

Before being elected to Congress, Rep. Bera was an instructor and the associate dean of admissions at U.C. Davis Medical School.

The Imani Clinic provides urgent health care and preventive

medical services each Saturday, and does community outreach events throughout the year.

Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. represents Sacramento County. Born and raised in California, Bera is a physician and the only Indian American currently serving in Congress. He’s fighting to rebuild an economy that works for middle class families and to reduce our country’s debt in a responsible way. One of Bera’s first acts in Congress was to help lead the effort to pass the No Budget No Pay Act, which says if

members of Congress don’t pass a budget, they don’t get paid. As a co-chair of No Labels’ Problem Solvers, he’s working with people from both parties to find bipartisan solutions to our nation’s challenges. He and his wife Janine live in Elk Grove with their daughter Sydra. For more updates on Rep. Bera follow @RepBera on Twitter, like Congressman Bera on Facebook, or visit www.bera.house.gov ★

Source: Congressman Ami Bera’s Office

Health Plan Cancellation Notices Piling In Due to Obamacare

WASHINGTON, DC - Millions of Americans have received notifications from their insurance providers that their policies are being cancelled or altered due to the Affordable Care Act over the past four weeks.

Reports on the number of cancellations nationwide vary and are still rolling in. Some project as many as 20 million will lose their current coverage under Obamacare.

Young Americans for Liberty decided to look within its network of activists and supporters to see if they had been impacted. Sure enough, many had.

YAL is currently collecting and posting images of insurance cancellation and alteration

notices from within its network that can be viewed here.

“Earlier this year our insurance rates rose,” one YAL supporter explained. “Now it’s going from \$383 per month to \$529 per month and we lose dental coverage,” they added.

“What happened to, ‘if you like your plan, you can keep it?’” Alyssa Farah, YAL Director of Communications asked.

“My policy, which I was happy with, is being discontinued in 2014,” Douglas, a YAL supporter, wrote. “The equivalent policy, according to Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, will cost \$562.32 per month. The policy I have now costs \$263.44,” he added.

“President Obama misled millions of Americans in an attempt to shove unwanted Obamacare down our throats,” Farah added. “He took away our ability to choose what is best for us.”

Young Americans for Liberty is the largest, most active, and fastest growing libertarian and conservative organization on America’s college campuses, with a network of more than 490 chapters nationwide. YAL seeks to identify, educate, train, and mobilize students on the ideals of individual liberty and the U.S. Constitution. Learn more at www.YALiberty.org, and contact Press@YALiberty.org with all media inquiries. ★

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When: November 9, 2013
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Place: Cordova Baptist Preschool & Kindergarten
10527 Coloma Road,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
You are invited to place your well wishes and/or business ads in a Souvenir Memory Book in honor of the 50th Anniversary Celebration.
Contact Carrie or Glenys at 916-638-5506 for more information.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

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By Ronnie McBrayer

Making my usual pastoral rounds at the local hospital some time ago, I witnessed the most unusual of circumstances. A dilapidated Buick had jumped the parking lot curb and had crash-landed in the flower garden just outside the main doors. The driver’s door was wide open, and a group of hurried and harried medical staff was doing something to someone in the driver’s seat.

My curiosity was far too strong, so I slipped out of the hospital lobby to get a closer look. To my astonishment, a baby was being delivered right there in the front floorboard of that car. Thank God I didn’t stumble upon this situation alone, for in the magnificent words of the late Butterfly McQueen, “I don’t know nothin’ ‘bout birthin’ no babies!”

All I could do was offer quiet prayers – for the laboring mother, for the new life struggling to be born, for the skilled and steady hands of the medical staff, and for myself – that I not pass out and create a secondary medical emergency. Within minutes the child, a boy, was born (more through the efforts of the mom, midwives, and nurses, not my prayers), and within days the two patients left the hospital in

Birthing Babies

excellent health (in that same Buick, by the way).

Granted, this birth was not typical. Some mothers labor for hours. Some children enter the world only by surgical intervention. Some babies are born in a maternity ward, some at home, some with a cadre of attending physicians, and indeed, some are born in the most bizarre of environments. What they all have in common is this: When it comes to birth, every newborn needs all the help he or she can get, to ensure good health.

This, as I see it, should be the calling of the church. Congregations should provide safe, welcoming environments for faith to be born within people. Churches should strive to be delivery rooms where the new in faith can grow, be nurtured, and become the people God wants them to be.

There are many helpful images that define the church’s mission. It is a hospital providing healing to the sick and injured. It is a fuel station for those who are exhausted. It is a banquet hall of grace open to all who will feast at God’s table. But let us not forget our role as incubators of developing faith, skilled midwives who assist with spiritual birth.

And as it is with physical birth, spiritual birth is not an invariable experience. Some come to faith easy and early, like they can’t wait to get here, and all you have to do catch them. Others get wedged in the birth canal with philosophical, spiritual, and emotional sticking points. Others arrive in grand fashion, genuinely born again, but quickly

lose their way.

There are the doubters, the skeptics, the seekers, the confused, the angry, the stuck, the ready, the breeched, the premature, and those needing intensive neonatal care. None of these are targets of our marketing efforts. These aren’t clients, customers, or converts. They aren’t potential new members, and definitely not those whose vulnerability and needs should be used against them. These are precious people on the road to some kind of spiritual birth. Our role is to simply help their personal, unique faith emerge.

In my own individual journey of faith, so many people have helped me, people with a soft touch but strong, steady hands. Few of these helpers ever lectured me, formally “discipled” me, twisted my arm, force-fed me Bible verses, or beat me over the head with the latest and greatest new book guaranteed to revolutionize my life.

No, recognizing that something new was struggling to be born, they were there to gently guide, encourage, support, and coach me. They dove right in – right where they found me – skilled midwives, who let me know that life and faith are worth their struggles. And when the pain of labor has passed, the anguish gives way to joy – for all – for faith has been born in the world. ★

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down, Now Everybody Turn Around

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Flying in an airplane is not my preferred style of transportation. However, flying without an airplane is quite disastrous, if you know what I mean!

I am not quite sure the Wright brothers would be too happy with some of the things passing as an airplane these days. It seems to me that psychotic midgets have designed modern day airplanes. Nothing in an airplane is designed for the normal person, and I might as well say it, I consider myself normal. I may be a shade taller than normal but I am normal in every other respect.

The one plane I took from Detroit to Dayton Ohio was about as small as I have ever been on. Walking down the aisle, I could not even stand up but had to bend over in order to walk down the aisle. I heard a noise behind me that startled me and I stood up only to dash my head against the ceiling. That was not the worst headache of my flight.

One of these days, I would like to meet the person who designed the seats in those planes. I will admit to being a little post thin, but after all shouldn’t you be able to sit down in a seat when you are flying?

I truly do not understand what a seatbelt is for with individuals like me. I can barely squeeze myself into that seat and then it takes me about 15 minutes to extract myself from the seat. I suppose a seatbelt is for the comfort of the pilot who believes that somehow I will not bounce out of my seat while he is flying. I could not bounce out if my life depended upon it.

My seat was so tight and I fit so snugly in it that when I sneezed it felt like I did some damage to my inner organs. Somewhere in the Constitution there has to be something to the effect that an

individual has the right to sneeze without hurting himself.

What I want to know is why do I always have to sneeze when I am in certain situations like this?

Then, comes the time when you need to go to the bathroom. The flight attendant will bring you all the free beverages you can consume. They know, and I guess they are snickering behind our back, that everybody is going to have to go to the bathroom at the same time.

Coordinating the bathroom run is one of the trying exploits of flying the friendly skies.

For one, by the time I realize I have to go to the bathroom there is a line for the bathroom. Fortunately, but the time I extradite myself from my seat the line has dwindled dramatically. Then again, I have to go to the bathroom so bad I am dancing up the aisle to the bathroom to the great applause of the people sitting there.

Once I fasten myself into the seat, I try to get comfortable enough to do a little reading. Since I am sitting in the aisle seat, everybody is bumping into me as they go up and down the aisle.

Now that I am situated so that I cannot move, they come again with beverages. Why is it I forget there is a link between drinking a beverage and going to the bathroom? I know there is a link but when I am up in the air so high my tiny little grey cells are working in slow motion. So why take a free beverage? Well, it is free!

I am at the age in my development where going to the bathroom is a frequent activity, even when not drinking any beverages. When consuming a beverage, this activity kicks into high gear. Once again, I need to extricate myself from my seat and find my way to the

bathroom.

I am not quite sure about this, but I believe in mid air the airplane pilot switches the bathroom from the front to the rear. I am dancing up the aisle, which I believe is in the direction of the bathroom, only to discover I am going in the wrong direction.

A few of the people in the seats are smiling at me and one person gives me a thumbs-up as I turn around and dance in the direction of the actual bathroom facility. With a forced grin, I give a thumbs-up back at him and proceed in the direction of the bathroom.

It is at this point that I run into a line. Wouldn’t you know it; the line is for the bathroom?

This is a real thumbs-down for me. It is at this point that I really wish I was not a gentleman. After all, a gentleman has to let the ladies go first. I think if some of these ladies would know the actual situation, they would insist I go first and I certainly would give them a wonderful thumbs-up.

As I was standing in line, a verse of Scripture popped into my head.

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:21 KJV).

Many things in life have us going in circles to which there is no end. God, however, puts us on the straight and narrow path that ends with Jesus Christ. ★

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, P.O. Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

It often takes a long time for some of us to seek God and until then, Jesus remains on His knees praying for YOU. YOU, my unknown friend were created to become part of God’s enormous family all over the world. Picture the Son of God, Jesus humbly kneeling and talking to His Heavenly Father specifically about YOU. That is just how very special and important YOU are, as His creation. Before the foundation of the earth at a specific moment in time, He planned for your birth and then, formed YOU in your mother’s womb and nine months later you were born. All of your life, God’s Holy Spirit has nudged, poked, knocked on your heart’s door and drawn you to a place where you would recognize your need for the Savior of your soul and Lord to guide your life. He is the best helper

Jesus Prays For You!

anyone could have. He loves you with an everlasting love and is patiently waiting...

There is a famous painting that hangs in many churches and Christian homes that portray Jesus kneeling beside a huge rock, hands folded in prayer. The rock may represent you or those with hardened hearts who have resisted God’s plan for their life. But, Jesus keeps praying for YOU.

YOU do not understand that He blesses those who come to Him with a pure childlike heart. He said, “Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” (Mark 10:15) His prayers are filled with loving grace, that encircle YOU as He desires YOU to come to Him as a little child.

When you do come YOU will receive God’s gift to the world, Jesus His Beloved Son, as your personal Savior and Lord who comes to reside in your heart forever. The Heavenly Father’s plan recorded in John 17 and John 3:16 which states “For God so loved the world that He sent His Beloved Son into the world to die, that those who receive Him also receive the gift of life eternal in heaven”. Jesus blood and death washes every sin away and He purchased eternal life for those who come to Him..

When you are totally

surrendered to His will for your life, God is willing to take full responsibility to help and guide you. (Romans 12:1-2) His Holy Spirit resides in your heart and He will fill every empty place in your life. His power delivers and transforms. He never leaves or forsakes you and your name is written in His Book of Life. His Holy Word (Bible) promises you an abundant life when you walk close to Him in obedience, prayer and study of His Word.

And when this life is over, He was the DOOR through which you passed. He blesses you with the gift of eternal life in His heavenly home forever. He is absolutely “ALL” you will ever need. He meets every need.

My friend, Come – He loves you more than you know this moment. There is a brand new life waiting for you, one you will never regret entering by making this decision today. I know because made that decision in 1968 and God has been faithful to every promise He

Gave to me...He longs for you to become His child too. ★

Marlys Johnsen Norris – Christian Author of 7 Books including Award Winning “Recipes for a Happier Marriage” Marlysjn@gmail.com



By Karen Anderson

There is something that we all suffer from. Don’t deny it...it’s WORRY. We used to have a running joke in my family that I was the “champion worrywort” next to my grandfather, dad, and then me. I worried about what I should wear...girls gotta look good. I worried about walking down a dark path...someone would attack me, I worried about being in the wilderness...I might fall (I don’t like to fall). I worried about the money...want to be independent. Most of these worries still plague me today but I’m tired of this getting in my way.

The question is this, “Why do I put myself through this?” Do you realize, friends, what really

Champion Worrywort

is behind this? It is fear of what is waiting for you around the corner, which is a lack of trust. I have started a study of Psalm 91 and realize that God has provided a way for me to build my trust in Him. It is His Umbrella of Protection. Just in the first two verses I realize I haven’t spent the time He wants from me. It is so easy to get side-tracked with all the busyness of the day. From this day forward, I choose forever more to make Him my first priority. I know I have talked about living a moment-by-moment life with Him, but it is hard to stick to it. No more excuses...He will be my first thought upon rising and my last thought when I retire for the night.

Now let’s look at the second verse. He wants me to open up to Him with all my hurts, fears, and disappointments. It’s silly to think that I can hide anything from God. He knows everything about me, so why not go ahead and open my heart and my words to Him?

Once the first step is established in your life, the next step for this protection is to say what

is troubling you. Say this: “Lord, You are my refuge—You are my fortress—You are my Lord and my God! In You I put my total trust!” When facing that challenge learn to say, “In this particular situation of _____ (name it out loud), I choose to trust you, Lord.” Is that really so hard? It shouldn’t be.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!” I look forward to my continual study of His Word and I want you to get excited and accept God’s protection...all you have to do is act on it.

PASSAGE: Psalm 91:1-2 ★

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Her latest books, “Nikki’s Tail-Waggin’ Lessons” and “The Little Book of BIG Thoughts Series” can be found on Amazon.com. Leave a message for Karen at www.soaringtohope.com or connect with her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SoaringtoHope

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Dare to Live Without Limits



Bouncing Back

by Bryan Golden

There may be a time in your life, perhaps more than one, when you hit bottom. It may feel as if your situation can’t get any worse. There may be one event that stresses you out or a cumulative series of circumstances.

Regardless of the cause, if you hit bottom you can bounce back. But you have to believe you can and you have to want to. Although this appears to be obvious, there are people who don’t think it’s possible to get back up or do not have the drive to do so.

Hitting bottom is emotionally and physically draining. You may find yourself devoid of ambition or lacking enthusiasm. Staying at the bottom, wallowing in self-pity, is not an option. Regardless of why you hit bottom, or how long you have been there, you need to immediately begin the process of bouncing back.

Bouncing back involves several components: desire, determination, action, perseverance, and an open mind. The process starts with desire. You have to want to improve your situation. If you don’t, you won’t. Saying something to yourself similar to, “I guess it would be nice if things were better but I don’t know if it’s possible,” will not work. Your mindset must be, “I’m going to

do whatever it takes to improve where I am and how I feel.”

Next you need a plan. A clearly defined and understood set of steps is essential. You don’t have to formulate a plan on your own. Being at the bottom can impact your perspective along with the ability to think clearly. Look to people who have gotten themselves out of the same predicament you are facing. You can learn a lot from them as to what strategies are most effective.

Devise as many steps as necessary. Each one needs to be small enough to avoid being overwhelming. There is a natural tendency to avoid tasks that are too large. A plan with steps you won’t take is of no value.

Now you are ready for action. Begin with the first step in your plan. No step is too small. Getting started is the key. The slightest bit of forward progress is significant. Give yourself credit for each accomplishment. Without action, nothing happens. If you stop, all progress ceases.

Bouncing back takes effort but suffering is no picnic either. Since whatever path you take requires energy, it makes sense to choose a course which will lead you to a desirable destination. The more effort you put into implementing

your plan, the more effective you will be.

You are not going to bounce back in one step. The journey is a progression that takes place one step at a time. Patience is required. Frustration is a common component of the process. Giving up is not an option. Persistence is the key to getting to where you want to be.

You may experience setbacks. It doesn’t matter. Pick yourself up and get back on track. Concentrate on your destination rather than your current situation. Forward is the only direction that’s important.

You can bounce back from hitting bottom. People do it all the time. You need desire, a plan, and then action. There is no magic involved. When you find yourself at a low point, it’s only a detour, not a final destination. It is never too late to change direction.

★
NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columlist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2013 Bryan Golden

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Carmichael VIPs Aid Local Seniors

CARMICHAEL CA (MPG) - Earlier this year Suzanne Leininger, marketing director of Hank Fisher Properties Chateau at Carmichael Park senior community, decided that the time had come to pull together a group of Carmichael professionals to educate local area seniors and improve their well-being.

Her mission was clear: provide hospital case managers and discharge planners with a cooperative network of trusted senior care professionals committed to a fast response and the highest ethical standards of care. "If I am unable to do something for a resident, I know that there is a senior services expert out there who can; and, more importantly, I know it's someone whom I can



Suzanne Leininger, marketing director of Hank Fisher Properties Chateau at Carmichael Park senior community.

trust," says Leininger.

Leininger formed a network of Very Important Professionals, a team of senior service professionals in Carmichael. The

roster includes financial and legal expertise (Ochi Law), in-home care and hospice (Helping Hearts, Interim Hearts Foundation), medical and non-medical transportation (Alpha One), skilled nursing (American River Care, Carmichael Care, Mission Carmichael, and Rosewood Post-Acute), and memory care independent living and assisted living (Chateau at Carmichael Park, Citrus Heights Terrace). According to Leininger, the group has been phenomenally successful working together over the past several months to help with a variety of issues facing Carmichael seniors. ★

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The Progressive Income Tax Turns 100

Commentary by
Dr. Paul Kengor

Maybe it's a measure of progressives' refusal to look back, to always move "forward." Otherwise, they should be celebrating right now. In fact, President Obama and fellow modern progressives/liberals should have been ecstatic all this year, rejoicing over the centenary of something so fundamental to their ideology, to their core goals of government, to their sense of economic and social justice — to what Obama once called "redistributive change."

And what is this celebratory thing to the progressive mind?

It is the progressive income tax. This year it turned 100. Its permanent establishment was set forth in two historic moments: 1) an amendment to the Constitution (the 16th Amendment), ratified February 3, 1913; and 2) its signing into law by the progressive's progressive, President Woodrow Wilson, October 3, 1913. It was a major political victory for Wilson and fellow progressives then and still today. By my math, that ought to mean a long, sustained party by today's progressives, a period of extended thanksgiving.

President Obama once charged that "tax cuts for the wealthy" are the Republicans' "Holy Grail." Tax cuts form "their central economic doctrine." Well, the federal income tax is the Democrats' Holy Grail. For progressives/liberals, it forms their central economic doctrine.

As merely one illustration

among many I could give, former DNC head Howard Dean and MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell were recently inveighing against Republican tax cuts. Dean extolled "what an increase in the top tax rate actually does." He insisted: "that's what governments do — is redistribute. The argument is not whether they should redistribute or not, the question is how much we should redistribute ... The purpose of government is to make sure that capitalism works for everybody ... It's government's job to redistribute."

What Dean said is, in a few lines, a cornerstone of the modern progressive manifesto. For Dean and President Obama and allies, a federal income tax based on graduated or progressive rates embodies and enables government's primary "job" and "purpose." They embrace a progressive tax for the chief intention of wealth redistribution, which, in turn, allows for income leveling, income "equality," and for government to do the myriad things that progressives ever-increasingly want government to do.

And so, in 1913, progressives struck gold. The notion of taxing income wasn't entirely new. Such taxes existed before, albeit temporarily, at very small levels, and for national emergencies like war. The idea of a permanent tax for permanent income redistribution broke new ground. The only debate was the exact percentage of the tax. In no time, progressives learned they could never get enough.

In 1913, when the progressive income tax began, the top rate was a mere 7 percent, applied only to the fabulously wealthy (incomes above \$500,000). By the time Woodrow Wilson left office in 1921, the great progressive had hiked the upper rate to 73 percent. World War I (for America, 1917-18) had given Wilson a short-term justification, but so did Wilson's passion for a robust "administrative state."

Disagreeing with Wilson were the Republican administrations of Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge, his immediate successors. Along with their Treasury secretary, Andrew Mellon, they reduced the upper rate, eventually bringing it down to 25 percent by 1925. In response, the total revenue to the federal Treasury increased significantly, from \$700 million to \$1 billion, and the budget was repeatedly in surplus.

Unfortunately, the rate began increasing under Herbert Hoover, who jacked the top rate to 63 percent. It soon skyrocketed to 94 percent under another legendary progressive, FDR, who, amazingly, once considered a top rate of 99.5 percent on income above \$100,000 (yes, you read that right).

Appalled by this was an actor named Ronald Reagan, himself a progressive Democrat — though not much longer. Reagan often noted that Karl Marx, in his "Communist Manifesto" (1848), demanded a permanent "heavy progressive or graduated income tax." Indeed, it's point two in

Marx's 10-point program, second only to his call for "abolition of property."

The upper tax rate wasn't reduced substantially until 1965, when it came down to 70 percent. Alas, President Ronald Reagan took it down to 28 percent. And despite claims to the contrary, federal revenues under Reagan increased (as they did in the 1920s), rising from \$600 billion to nearly \$1 trillion. (The Reagan deficits were caused by excessive spending and decreased revenue from the 1981-3 recession.)

The upper rate increased again (to 31 percent) under George H. W. Bush and under Bill Clinton (39.6 percent). George W. Bush cut it to 35 percent. Barack Obama has returned it to the Clinton level of 39.6 percent.

Here in 2013, 100 years henceforth, the wealthiest Americans — the top 10 percent of which already pay over 70 percent of federal tax revenue — will be paying more in taxes this year

than any time in the last 30 years. For progressives, this is justice. But it is also bittersweet: As progressives know deep inside, it still isn't enough. For them, it's never enough.

To that end, my enduring question for progressives is one they typically avoid answering, especially those holding elected office: In your perfect world, where, exactly, would you position the top rate? I routinely hear numbers in the 50-70 percent range.

Democrats like President Obama complain about Republican intransigence in raising tax rates but, truth be told — and as any liberal really knows — if it wasn't for Republican resistance, progressives would rarely, if ever, cut taxes. America would remain on a one-way upward trajectory in tax rates, just like under Woodrow Wilson and FDR, and just as it has been in its unrestrained spending for nearly 50 years. Like their

refusal to cut spending (other than on defense), progressives are dragged kicking and screaming into tax cuts. They need high income taxes for the government planning and redistributing they want to do; for Obama's sense of redistributive justice.

This year, the progressive income tax turns 100. For progressives, getting it implemented was a huge triumph. Their success in making it a permanent part of the American landscape is a more stunning achievement still.

Dr. Paul Kengor is professor of political science at Grove City College, executive director of The Center for Vision & Values, and New York Times best-selling author of the book, "The Communist: Frank Marshall Davis, The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mentor."

Editor's note: This article first appeared at Investor's Business Daily.

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